

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00662 011635Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00
STR-04 AID-05 IGA-02 /030 W
-----022719 011645Z /41
P 311420 AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3509

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT

SUBJECT: FLOUR FOR ARUBA

FOR OAC/F - JIM BANKS

1. ON AUGUST 26 ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF
CONSUL GENERAL IN PREVENTING ARRIVAL IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
TERRITORIAL WATERS OF U.S. VESSEL THOUGHT TO BE CARRYING
TO ARUBA FLOUR ORDERED BY ARUBA ISLAND COMMISSIONERS IN
VIOLATION OF STATE MONOPLY GRANTED CONTINENTAL MILLING CO.
AG HOPED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH ARUBAN AUTHORITIES
THAT ARRIVAL OF FLOUR AT ARUBAN DOCK WOULD SURELY PRECIPITATE.
DOCK WORKERS ARE MOST MILITANT OF UNIONS BACKING BETICO CROES,
AND NAG REALIZED ONLY FORCE WOULD PREVENT THEIR UNLOADING
FLOUR EVEN IF SHIPMENT ILLEGAL.

2. AFTER CALL TO OPERATIONS CENTER AND SUBSEQUENT TELECONS
WITH JIM BANKS, CONSUL GENERAL WAS ABLE TO INFORM AG THAT
PRUDENTIAL LINES' SANTA ANNA HAD INDEED A CARGO OF FLOUR
DESTINED FOR ARUBA; THAT COMPANY, PREVIOUSLY INFORMED OF
PROBLEM, HAD ALREADY ORDERED FLOUR OFFLOADED IN SANTO DOMINGO;
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AND THAT SANTA ANNA WOULD ARRIVE CURACAO MORN AUGUST 30
AND PROCEED TO ARUBA WITH ETA 0700 AUGUST 31. PRUDENTIAL
LINES' CARL ECKERT ASKED IF REPRISALS AGAINST SANTA ANNA
COULD BE EXPECTED. CONSUL GENERAL REPLIED THAT AG HAD BEEN
UNABLE TO GIVE ASSURANCES, BUT THOUGHT UNLIKELY REPRISAL
MORE SERIOUS THAN DELAYING PILOT SERVICES; WHICH IT WOULD TAKE

SOME DAYS TO OVERCOME IN COURT ACTION. CONGEN SHARED AG'S VIEW, POINTED OUT IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARUBAN REACTIONS UNPREDICTABLE, AND NOTED THAT VESSEL'S COULD GET BETTER READING FROM NAG AFTER VESSEL ARRIVED CURACAO. (ACTUALLY SANTA ANNA DELAYED 24 HOURS, WILL ARRIVE AUGUST 31 NOON.)

3. AUGUST 29 ARUBAN DOCKWORKERS REFUSED TO UNLOAD A CARGO OF FLOUR FROM CURACAO TRANSPORTED ON ANOTHER VESSEL, GREGORY. APPARENTLY ARUBANS THOUGHT SANTA ANNA CARGO WOULD ARRIVE ON SCHEDULE. THIS EPISODE IN ALL MEDIA. IN VIEW POSSIBLE ARUBAN ANGER AT SANTA ANNA'S ARRIVAL WITHOUT FLOUR FROM U.S. AG HAS TALKED WITH PRUDENTIAL' AGENT TO INSURE LATTER FULLY UNDERSTANDS RISKS. ARUBAN ACTING GOVERNOR WHOSEEMS TO HAVE SIGNED ORDER FOR FLOUR FROM US THAT SANTA ANNA WAS CARRYING, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO RESIGN; HE HAS NOT YET DONE SO.

4. FOREGOING CIRCUMSTANCE MAY VERY WELL ESCALATE INTO ANOTHER ROUND OF DISTURBANCES IN ARUBA. IN MY VIEW, PRUDENTIAL MIGHT WELL CONSIDER OFFLOADING REMAINING CARGO (850) TONS FOR ARUBA HERE IN CURACAO FOR TRANSSHIPMENT. DEPT MAY WISH PASS THIS ASSESSMENT PRUDENTIAL.
PENBERTHY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARUBA, FLOUR, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CURACA00662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770316-1068
Format: TEL
From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708113/aaaafyks.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 627cb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1441989
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970911
Subject: FLOUR FOR ARUBA FOR OAC/F - JIM BANKS
TAGS: EAGR, EWWT, NA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/627cb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009